



Poplar and willow borer

Cryptorhynchus lapathi

Order Coleoptera, Family Curculionidae; snout beetles
Introduced pest

Host plants: All poplar and willow species, except *Populus tremuloides* are preferred; alder and birch are also susceptible.

Description: Adults are stout weevils, 8–10 mm long, with long curved snouts. They are black with the exception of the last third of their wing covers, which is gray to white. Mature larvae are approximately 8 mm long, cream-colored, legless and C-shaped.

Life history: Adults emerge in spring and feed on the phloem of new shoots. In summer, females chew holes in the bark of stems into which they usually deposit a single egg. Larvae bore into the bark and then into the wood, excavating long tunnels, the dust from which they push to the outside of the stem. New adults emerge in late July and August. One to three years are required to complete a life cycle.

Overwintering: Larvae in tunnels, as adults in debris.

Damage symptoms: Larval feeding may kill young saplings. Frequently, the stems of willows and poplars are weakened and liable to break in high winds or snow cover. Trees may also become bushy. The first symptoms of attack are cracks and dead patches on the bark of trunk and branches, and holes chewed through the bark, usually on the lower part of stems.

Monitoring: In spring, look for adults feeding on new shoots. Look for holes in the lower part of stems with sawdust-like frass emerging. Look for cracks and dead patches on the bark of trunk and branches.

Physical control: Destroy infested stems.

Chemical control: Spray stems of host plants when adults are active on trees. Adults that have overwintered will be present in spring, feeding on new shoots. New adults appear in late July to August.

Biological control: No reports of natural enemies

Plant mortality risk: High

Biorational pesticides: None

Conventional pesticides: chlorpyrifos (nursery only), imidacloprid, permethrin



Damage to trunk caused by poplar and willow borer; notice the frass, exudate and swelling in the bark. (W5)
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



Poplar and willow borer adult resting on a twig. (W4)
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



Poplar and willow borer on eastern cottonwood. (205)
Photo: James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, The Bugwood Network, University of Georgia



Poplar and willow borer (continued)



Poplar and willow borer adult. (205)
Photo: Oregon State University Extension Service